



House Appropriations Committee
February 10, 2021
Support of House Bill 786
Department of Human Services, Maryland Department of Health,
and Department of Education –
Easing Access to Family Support Programs

Board of Directors
2019 - 2021

President

Vickie Walters, LCSW-C
IBR/REACH Health Services
VWalters@IBRinc.org

President Elect

Josh Grollmes, MS
Serenity Health
JGrollmes@serenityllc.net

Secretary

Melissa Vail, LCPC
Sinai Hospital Addictions Recovery
Program (SHARP)
MAVail@lifebridgehealth.org

Treasurer

Babak Imanoel, D.O.
Northern Parkway Treatment
Services, BH Health Services
BabakImanoel@gmail.com

National AATOD Liaison

Kenneth Stoller, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
The Broadway Center
KStolle@jhmi.edu

Immediate Past President

Howard Ashkin, MMH, PsA
MedMark Treatment Centers
HAshkin@MedMark.com



c/o IBR/REACH Health Services
2104 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218



(410) 752-6080



www.matod.org

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on HB 786.

In the process of recovery, people with substance use disorders (SUDs) need a variety of supports related to their health and well-being. These supports can include transportation assistance, housing stabilization, and food security. There are programs in existence to help people, especially people with low incomes. But accessing these programs can be quite challenging.

It is a time-consuming process to get to the various housing and social service offices in order to fill out applications for assistance. There have been efforts over the years to streamline this process, but overall, it remains a cumbersome process requiring the filling out of paperwork multiple times and providing myriad documents to prove residency, income, or disability. We see that our clients often times get frustrated and discouraged by the many forms and duplicative paperwork required to access these services and sometimes give up on the process. This leads to a loss of very much needed services for those that these services are intended to provide for.

SUD programs provide case management services to assist our clients through this process and we also become frustrated with the amount of time and energy it takes to access these services. Streamlining it, as envisioned in HB 786, using the technology currently available, would reduce the amount of time clients and clinicians spend on these administrative steps and allow our clients to receive the services they need so more time can be focused on recovery.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable opinion on HB 786.

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.